

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1-13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of an inflammatory disease characterized by elevated expression of interleukin 17 (IL-17) ~~in a mammalian subject,~~ comprising administering to said a mammalian subject determined to express an elevated level of IL-17, an effective amount of an ~~antagonist of anti-interleukin-23 (anti-IL-23) antibody or an anti-interleukin-23 receptor (anti-IL-23 receptor) antibody.~~
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said mammalian subject is human.
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said inflammatory disease is selected from ~~chronic inflammation, autoimmune diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), rheumatoid spondylitis, gouty arthritis and other arthritic conditions, multiple sclerosis (MS), asthma, systemic lupus erythematosus, adult respiratory distress syndrome, Behcet's disease, and psoriasis, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, graft versus host reaction, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), Alzheimer's disease, and pyresis.~~
17. (Canceled)
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 16 wherein said chronic inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ~~graft versus host reaction~~, multiple sclerosis (MS), and psoriasis.
19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said antagonist is an anti-IL-23 ~~or an anti-IL-23 receptor antibody.~~
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 15 wherein said antibody is an antibody fragment
21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said antibody fragment is selected from the group consisting of Fv, Fab, Fab', and F(ab')₂.
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 15 wherein said antibody is a full-length antibody.
23. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 15 wherein said antibody is chimeric.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 15 wherein said antibody is humanized.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 15 wherein said antibody is human.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said ~~antagonist~~ antibody is administered in combination with an additional therapeutic agent.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said additional therapeutic agent is an anti-inflammatory molecule.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein said anti-inflammatory molecule is selected from the group consisting of corticosteroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

29-49. (Canceled)